RAJYA SABHA

Friday, the 24th April, 1987/4 *Vaisakha,* 1909 *{Saka)*

The House met at eleven* of the clock. Chairman in the Chair.

ALL ANSWERS To QUESTIONS

CHAIRMAN: Question Nos. 141 151 will be taken together.

Guidelines for fixation off Remunerative Prices for Fanners

*141. iSHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: /ill the Minister of AGRICULTURE be' pleased to state.

(a) what are the guideline followed by the Agriculture Costs and Prices Corn-mission while deciding the remunerative prices to farmers;,

(b) whether it is a fact that there is-, widespread dissatisfaction amongst the farmers about, these guidelines; and, '

(c-) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this. regard?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINIS TRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOG-ENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices is only a recommendatory body. 'Wlaile formulating its recommendations, the Commission is guided by its terms Pf reference'and accordingly, keeps in view the- following;

(i) the need to provide incentive-to the producer for adopting improved . fechnoloby and for developing a production pattern broadly in the light of national requirements;

ii). the need to ensure rational utBi-in of land, water arid, other produc-resources; RS—1

(»i) the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of, {he economy, particularly on the cost of living, level of wages, industrial cost structure, etc.; and

(iv) the changes in terms of trade - between 'agricultural sector and non-agricultUTai sector.

, The Commission also takes into account not only a comprehensive over-view of' the entire structure of \the economy of a particular commodity but also a number of important factors; e..,

1. Cost o'f production, i 2. Changes in input prices.
3. Input-Output price parity.
4. Trends in market prices. '
5. Demand and supply.
6. Inter-crop price partiy.
-. 7. Effect on industrial cost structure.
8. Effect on general price level.
9. Effect on cost of living.
10, International market price situation,
11. " Parity between prices paid and prices received. '..

(b)No, Sir.

गेंहूं का खरीद मूल्य

*151. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1987 से गेंहूं का खरीद मूल्य 166 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल निर्धारित किये जाने का क्या आधार है ; और

(ख) क्या सरकार इसके मूल्य में और वृद्धि करने का विचार रखती है ; यदि हां तो कितनी तथा कब तक ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में कृषि और सहकारिता विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा) : (क) कृषि लागत तथा मूल्य आयोग द्वारा

(c> Does not arise,

की गई सिफारिशों के आधार पर तथा राज्य सरकारों के विचारों और सभी अन्य सम्बद्ध घटकों को ध्यान में रखने के बाद 1987-88 के विपणन मौसम के लिये उत्तम किस्म के गेहूं का खरीद मूल्य 166 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल निर्धारित किया गया है।

(ख) जी नहीं।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : सभापति, जी, सरकार द्वारा मेरे प्रश्न को दिया गया उत्तर अपने आप में सरकार की संवेदना शून्य तक पहुंच गई है, यह स्पष्ट करता है। हिन्दुस्तान में गत कुछ वर्षों से लाभप्रद मूल्यों के लिये सारे देश में आन्दोलन होने के पश्चात् भी किसानों में व्यापक असन्तोष है। यह सरकार को ज्ञात नहीं है, यह दुखद और आश्चर्य-कारक है। जो भी कृषि लागत तथा मूल्य आयोग को सिफारिश करने वाली निकाय बताया गया है, यह अधिकतर किसान के खिलाफ है, किसान के पक्ष में नहीं है। मैं केवल उदाहरण के रूप में कहूं कि जीवन-यापन, मजदूरियों का स्तर, औद्योगिक लागत संरचना, आदि पर विशेष रूप से शेष अर्थव्यवस्था पर मूल्य नीति का प्रभाव.... (व्यवधान)....

MR. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Mahajan, - you are always delivering speeches. Therefore, you must Put your question.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN. I have finished just one minute Sir.

V

MR. CHAIRMAN; No, no,, jt does not matter. You see, the way in which ypu put your question, the preamble is to explain the question. But you deliver general, Iy speech. This is an vice to you. Please put your question.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : थैंक यू, इसलिये मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि इसमें जो "उत्पादन-लागत" इस शब्द का प्रयोग किया गया है, यह उत्पादन लागत के अन्तर्गत किन-किन चीजों में सरकार विचार करती है और कीमत, उसकी उत्पादन की लागत किस प्रकार तैयार करती है ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA. S_0 far as the cost of production is concern ed... *{Interruption).* He wanted to know- So, what can I do? I have to give it. We • take into consideration the value of hired human labour, value- of own bullock la bour, value of hired bullock labour, hired machinery charges, value of own machine ry labour, value of seeds both farm pro duce and purchase, value of insecticides and pesticides, value of farm yard manure owned and purchased, value of chemical fertilizer, depreciation on implements and farm building, irrigation charges, land re- - venue, cesses and other taxes, interest on working capital, misc. expenses, payment to artisans etc., rent paid for land-in lease, interest on the value of owned capi tal a"ssets excluding land, imputed rental value of owned land, imputed value, $_0$f family labour and so on and so forth. These are the factors which are taken into consideration w'hile calculating the cost of production of the produce of the far- * mere. The allegation made. by the hon. Member; s baseless because the Govern ment is very keen to see that the interest of the farmers js protected and everything is done to protect the interest of the far mers. Those who are launching the agita tion, they are doing it with a political motive.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : सभापति जी, दूसरा प्रश्न मैं यह पूछना चाहूंगा कि रिम्यूयिरेटिव प्राइसेस और सपोर्ट प्राइसेस जो इन दोनों शब्दों का प्रयोग किया जाता है,, इन दोनों शब्दों में क्या अन्तर है और किसानों को जो दिया जाता है, वह रिम्यूनरेटिव प्राइस है या स्पोर्ट प्राइस है ?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा : दोनों शब्दों में कोई अन्तर नहीं है। रिम्यूनिरेटिव प्राइस इसलिये कहा जाता है कि uetausc it js remunerative *IU* me tarmer Therefore, it is called a remunerative price. 'Support' because the farmer is supported by these prices sothat he may not incur losses in case the prices fall down to the minimum level. Then the Gov-

erriment is procuring at a fixed price which is remunerative price in order to support the farmers' interests.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN. He has not answered my question...

MR. CHAIRMAN; I am satisfied with* the answer. Now, Mr.. Satya Prakash Malaviya.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय मान्यवर, गत वर्ष गेहूं का समर्थन मूल्य 162 रुपये घोषित किया गया था और इस वर्ष भी हाल में 166 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल घोषित किया गया है। पिछले वर्ष जून में यह घोषणा हुई थी। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इस बीच में जो कृषि यंत्रों, बिजली की दरों, खाद, डीजल, बीज आदि चीजों के दामों में भारी वृद्धि हुई है और किसानों को बिजली समय पर नहीं मिलती है और अपर्याप्त मात्रा में मिलती है, तो आपने जो जनरल उत्तर दिया है, लेकिन मेरा स्पष्ट प्रश्न है कि पिछले 8 महीनों के अन्दर जिन चीजों का मैंने उल्लेख किया है, उनके दामो में जो वृद्धि हुई है, क्या उनका भी आपके विभाग द्वारा विचार किया गया है, समर्थन मूल्य निश्चित करने के लिये ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA. As I have already replied to the earlier honourable Mamber, air factors are taken into consideration, Increase in price is also taken into consideration while calculating the cost of production of the. farmer's produce. The Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices is collecting all this information from the States and various agencies Anj then they are deciding the cost. The Cost is in relation to the crop year. Therefore, - they add something to make it up-to-date. I have figures with me and if rne honourable Members are interested I can give the figures. In 1984-85 the highest cost of production was in Haryana and that was 141. 31 per quintal. If we add even 2 per cent increase, except some farm labour-fertilizer price is not increased, pesticide is not increased, during. this one year--them it comes to Rs. 3. it will then be 144. 31. Take jt as 145. The Commission recommended 165 and we have given 166. -A profit of Rs. 20 is given to the farmer.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : श्रीमन्, यह जो कृषि मूल्य आयोग है, मै जानना चाहता हूं कि इसका कम्पोजिशन क्या है और इसके जो मैम्बर है, उसमें किसानो और उत्पादकों के कौन-कौन लोग प्रतिनिधि है ?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : इसके लिये कई सुझाव आये है, जिसमें किसानो के 3 प्रतिनिधि रखे जाये। Almost every Member has written and suggested somebody's name. So we have to finalise if and we will be finalising it soon and put three representatives of farmers on the Commission.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : श्रीमन्, मेरे तीन प्रश्न हैं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि जो आपका एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइस कमीशन है, उसकी रिकमंडेशन पर आप काम करते हैं और भतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी जी ने यह घोषणा की थी, कि इसका गठन किया जायेगा और एक वर्ष पूर्व कृषि मंत्री जी ने भी घोषणा की थी कि इसका गठन किया जा रहा है। आज जो आपने उत्तर दिया है, उसमें भी आप कह रहे है कि तीन मैम्बर होंगे। एक साल पहले भी आपने कहा था कि तीन मैम्बर होंगे और आज तक आपने मैम्बर नहीं बनाये है। इसका मतलब यह है कि यह कमीशन गठित नहीं हुआ है। तो कौन इसकी रिकमंडेशन करता है ? क्या केवल आफिशल्स इसकी सिफारिश करते है ?

दूसरा प्रश्न मेरा यह है कि आपने कहा कि सभी फैक्टर्स को आप देखकर तय करते हैं। आपने अपने उत्तर में बताया है कि --

cost of living, level of wages, industrial cost structure, changes in input prices, input and output price parity and trends in market prices.

मान्यवर, मैं आपकी जानकारी में, यह ला दं कि 72-73, 73-74, 74-75,

75–76 में भारत सरकार ने गेहूं की कीमत 76 रुपये क्विंटल रखी थी। क्या इन चार वर्षों में जिन बातों की आपने चर्चा की है, इसमें कोई डिफरेंस नहीं आया था और क्या इनपुट में, पैरिटी आफ प्राइसेस में इण्डस्ट्रीयल कास्ट में कोई बढ़ोत्तरी नहीं हुई थी, इसके बारे में भी जरा बता दीजिये। यह भी आपकी आज्ञा से कह दूं कि 81–82, 82–83, 83–84 में भारत सरकार ने गन्ने की कीमत 13 रुपये क्विंटल कर की थी, तो क्या इन तीन सालों में कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन में इजाफा नहीं हुआ था ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA. SO far as the constitution of the-Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission is concerned, it is only before two or three months.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : एक साल पहले. आपकी मौजूदगी में कृषि मंत्री जी ने यही उत्तर दिया था जो आज स्टेट मिनिस्टर दे रहे है।

श्री जो०एस० डिल्लों : मुझे मिनिस्टर बने एक साल भी नहीं हुआ, आप कैसे कह रहे है ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : एक साल नहीं ग्यारह महीने तो हो गये।

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There *is* some substance m what he says, Sir. We bad declared '; t earlier, not this Agriculture Minister, but the previous Minister, Mr. But Singh. He did it.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Anyhow, - is a continuous thing though the Minister changes.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; So, Sir, there is substance in what he says. But the difficulty is that there a number of recommendations and as I have *said,* almost all the Members have recommended the names of some persons or the other and we have to decide on whether we have to take those suggestions. There' are some suggestions like appointing marginal farmer's representatives, small and marginal farmers' representatives, big farmers' representatives, medium farmers* representatives, etc. This is one suggestion. Another suggestion is that the agro-climatic areas should be taken into consider-*tion... (Interruptions)...* These are the difficulties. Therefore, this has been delayed. But We are going to do it.

So far as the increase in the cost of. production is concerned, if the honourable Member wants, I can give the figures. Yes, there is an increase in the cost of production, in 1982-83, it was Rs. 134. 77.

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : मैंने तो यह नहीं पूछा, मेरा यह प्रश्न नहीं था।

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: That is p«r quintal. Sir, the honourable Mamber. has asked a specific question whether there j_s any increase in the cost of production during. these $year_s$ °r not.

SHRI VIR'ENDRA VERMA. Yes.

. SHRI YbGENDRA MAKWANA; That was your question and I am replying to it. In 1982-83... *(Interruptions)...* You see, in 1982-83, the cost of production was Rs. 134. 77" which went up to Rs. 140. 93 in 1983. 84 and in 1984-855 it went up to Rs. 141. 31. So, there is an increase, substantial increase,, in the cost of production and, based on this cost of production^ the Government had declared the pro-curment price which is on the side of increase. For that also, if the honourable Member wants, I can give the figures and I have the figures with me. The price in 1982-83 -was Rs. 142|- per quintal, in 1983-84-Rs. 151|-, in 1984-85-Rs. 152|-, in 1985-86-Rs; 157|-, in. 1986-87-162J-and in l$87-88-Rs. 166I-. ^

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : विद यूअर परमिशन मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि मैंने गेहूं के मामले मे चार साल की फिगर्स मांगी थी...

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा : मैंने ज्यादा दे दिया तो क्या बात हो गयी ?

श्री वीरेन्द्र वर्मा : तीन साल की इन्होंने व्हीट की प्राइसेज बताई, मैंने पूछा था कि क्या तीन साल में कास्ट आफ प्राडेक्शन नहीं बढ़ी ? शुगरकेन की गवर्नमेंट आफ़ इण्डिया ने 13 रुपये क्विंटल प्राइस रखी थी, तीन साल तक, इसके क्या कारण है, एक तो यह पूछा था और दूसरा स्पैसिफिक क्वेश्चन यह था कि 72-73, 73-74, 74-75, 75-76 इन चार वर्षों में गेहूं की कीमत 76 रुपये क्विंटल रखी तो क्या कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन नहीं बढ़ी थी, क्या इण्डस्ट्रियल कमोडिटीज की कीमतें नहीं बढ़ी थी, क्या वेजिज नहीं बढ़े थे और क्या कास्ट आफ लीविंग नहीं बढ़ा था ? यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं ।

j SHRl YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, I have-not got the figures of 1970-71 'with me at present; I have the figures with me for 'the years 1982-83 to 1987-88 and *I* have given those figures to the honourable Member just now. So far as me terms of trade are concerned, they 'are being looke, to by the Commission when it recommends the procurement price to the Government.

श्री शरद त्यागी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे मेरा यह सुझाव स्वीकार करेंगे कि किसानों की पैदावार के दाम तय करते समय देश की किसान एसोसिएशन्स, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री की कंसलटेटिव कमेटी उनसे भी इस बारे में विचार-विमर्श करने के लिये सहमत हैं ?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाणा : यह सब तो हम आज भी करते है । यदि एग्रीकल्चरल प्राइसेज कमीशन के सामने कोई जाना चाहता है, तो वह जा सकता है, कोई भी एसोसिएशन जा सकती है, इण्डिविजुअल जा सकता है । लेकिन यह बात फिक्स नहीं है, कि ये ही जा सकते हैं । उनके पास कोई भी जा सकता है, अपना मेमोरेण्डम दे सकता है, अपनी ओपीनियम दे सकता है और यह बता सकता है कि ये दाम रखने

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI; Sir, I have gone through the reply given by the Min- ister. On an earlier occasion, only on13 th March, 1987, a reply was given to another -friend of mine. Sir, the; Minister. says that various factors are, taken into consideration when the agricultural prices-' are fixed. In your 13th March reply, you have given what you call the percentage increase or decrease in inpus because of support prices. I want to *know* whether what you are saying is correct or what you said at that time was correct. I only take 2 years regarding wheat input. In"l983-84, it rose from 10 to 15. 2, per cent and in 1984-85 from 15. 2 to 15. 5 per • cent., This is so in Haryana, Punjab,

RajaSthan and various other States. In 1982-83, the support price is 6. 3 and in . 1983-. 84 it is 7 per cent. In 1984-85 it is 10. 6. So, taking into consideration the increase in inputs and the support price, it does not, seem that what you have said now' and what you have stated then have got any factual basis, I can quote paddy also. But the whole reply is. oir the Table Of the House. I want to draw the attention of the Minister and also of the Government that the agriculturists- and the farming community of the country are very much disturbed. This Agricultural Prices Commission and all those things will not solve their problem. The problem relswtes to the terms of trade. Thousands of crores of rupees are transferred" from-fhe rural sector to- the urban sector because of the terms of trade. *I* remember that when Indira Gandhi was the Prime*Minister-r-I don't, remember the name of the Minister of Agriculture at that time—she had promised that the efforts of the Government are to neutralise the terms of trade* by at least 7000 . A. D. Will you be able to neutralise the terms of trade and stop this trend from rural areas to the urbai areas?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; Sir, there is no difference in what I said earlier and what I said today,, Earlier I said in terms of percentage. Today I

spoke in$_N$ absolute terms. The ion. Member says that, there is a difference. There is no difference.. In 1, 982-83, the °°s*l* of production was 134. 77 and the price declared was 142 rupees per quintal.

SHRl A. G. KULKARNI: I am talking in terms of -percentage.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: This is in absolute terms. There is no time to calculate the percentage.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI; This is jug glery. -

MR. CHAIRMAN; Mr. Minister, you should bring the calculator along with you as I used to do when I was the Finance Minister.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Then I will not be hearing the hon. Members because I will be calculating. So, there is no difference in absolute figures and percentage. Another thing the hon. Member is asking is about the terms of trade[1]. Sir, terms of trade are taken into consideration. But agricultural produce beffjjr such, a commodity, sometimes be-cau&' of Woods, because of heavy rains, because" of-thought and because of cyclo-nesthere is. total loss to the crop, and it become very diffucult in those cases to balance the teram of dade wife the agri-eulfuWprMuce". So, in some cases; there is some diffuculty But the Commission is taking the trade into consideration while recommending

sector made the of sector is

SHRI GURU DAS GUPTA sir

But I would lrke to know The. Mmister

representatives of the, Kisan takmor. into coflsfderatfdn the opinion, of. the.. kisan Quite strong here But sir be has as not 'eferred to that. Therefore, will vou kindlyorpknisatic/W while ' •senlatfves? '

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; Sir, I have etaflier stated that we do consider their opinion. They are at liberty to [x] come and present their cases before the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission Sir, the man who is leading the agitation —I do not want to name—the gentleman is from Maharashtra We sent every time a message to, the Maharashtra Government to invite famous representatives and to discuss the cost of the produce of the farmers in Maharashtra with the Commission. But he never turned up before the Commission. That is the attitude of these so-called leaders of the farmers who are launching the agitation against the Gov-ernment. But we are -prepared to hear them. We are prepared to hear the organisations. We are prepared* to hear the individuals, and we are prepared to hear anybody who represents the farmers' interests.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI; It is all Gujarat problem.

SHR^N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, the re-munerative prices are fixed uniformly ir-respective of the backwardness of the regions, Iii Vidarbha region, Sir, which Mr. Vasant Sathe and Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad also represent—a very backward area—sugar mills are coming up in the co-operative sector with great difficulties. There is unending teething problem for those industries, Sir, unlike Western Maharashtra which have tremendous infrastructure, material and men infrastructure in'their sugar mills. I would, therefore, like to know from the Agriculture Minister that while you are clamping a uniform payment of remunerative prices to sugarcane growers which is good in a way, what are you-going to do by way of giving concessions to these new sugar factories in the co-operative sector?

MR. CHAIRMAN; This in only with regard to agricultural prices. Mr. Chitta Basu.

S HRI N K. P. SALVE; Sir, I shall reframe the question. To ensure that | umfornr remunerative! prices are paid. . whaf-are fhe measures you can assure to

the new ugar factories of the backward fireas?

SHRI YOSENDRA MAKWANA; Sir, we are assuring to the farmers and not to the sugar factories. We look after the interests of the sugarcane growers and not of the crushers.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, he has not understood my question. Otherwise -they will not be able to Pay uniform prices.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Salve. You ha^e been effectively answered.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, you have; bailed him out.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, we have listened to the explanation given-by Mr. Makwana regarding the support price and remunerative price. Sir, I do not accept his^explaaation. The- support price is the mMirnum price so that the farmers do not incure any loss. " Remunerative price is the price which includes some element ' of profit, etc. Therefore, support price and the remunerative price should not be equated. My question to the hon. Minister is whether he agrees. that rerrlunerative price for the growers can be ensured only if this particular farmula is accepted by the- Government _and the Commission in fixing the, price of agricultural produce* namely cost Of production plus transport cost plus reasonable profit plus risk allowance. Would the Government advise the Commission to fix the prices en the basis of this formula. Sir, part (b) of my question is what is the "particular role' assigned to the State Governments in the matter of fixing the prices because many. State Governments have given thei$_r$ recommendations which are not accepted by the Commission and by the Government. To illustrate my point, I may say that the Govrenment, of West Bengal suggested a certain' amount as remunerative price,, for jute, jlt'wasifrot accepted, by the Com-. mission nor by the Government, Thejre- -, fore, what is the. exact role assigned to the State Governments in the ' matter of fixing the prices og agricultural produce. ~ The fact of the matter is that the State. Governments are more concerned about it than the Government at the Centre and therefore, I want that thiss one should be clarified.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; Sir, profit and cost, these are two different terms. Price minus cost is what we call, profit. And profit is given for the risk that the entrepreneur takes. Profit is because of risk taking quality of the entrepreneur'. Therefore he gets the benefits of profit. Now, in case of this while calculating cost we do not include the element of profit. But while declaring the prices we include the element of profit, we include some amount as profit to the cost of production of the farmers. Therefore, proft element is taken into consideration while declaring the prices and, therefore, it is called remunerative price. So far as the second question is concerned, when we receive the report of the. Agricultural Prices Commission, it is circulated to the State Governments. We, seckthеir opinion. After taking the opinion of the State Governments into consideration and after taking the report of the C. A. C. P. and the views of the Planning. Commission and various Ministries into consideration we. AX, the prices. In some cases wemay have accepted the recommendation of the State Government and in some cases we may not have accepted them also.

Strike by the Junior Engineers of tfie CPWD

142. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: f SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVE LOPMENT be pleased to state:.

(a) whether it is -a fact that tjie J'unJot Engineers of the C. P. W. D. went on strike in Delhi during the month of March pnd in the current month in this year;

(b) if so, what are their demand, rind the atfion '. taken so far by Government thereon;

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.